

ABSTRACT

5 The invention provides biopolymer sponge tubes closed  
at one end for use in surgery. The preferred biopolymer  
is collagen. The biopolymer sponge tubes are prepared by  
forming an aqueous dispersion of the biopolymer,  
introducing the dispersion into tube-shaped moulds,  
freezing the dispersion in the moulds to form a shaped,  
10 aqueous dispersion, followed by freeze-drying the frozen  
aqueous dispersion. The tubes are fitted over endoscopic  
surgical staplers to provide improved sealing of stapled  
tissues, especially for air-tight sealing in lung  
resections.

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